



جمعية حماية العمال الوافدين
Migrant Workers Protection Society
(MWPS)

MIGRANT VOICE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 01 | EDITION 09 | SEPTEMBER 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

**TO CREATE A COMMUNITY
WHERE EXPATRIATE
RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED
AND TO RAISE AWARENESS
OF THESE RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES**

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IN FOCUS

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER

In September, community group The 973Lounge, in collaboration with Smile of Bahrain, launched the SPECIAL SEPTEMBER campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer among the migrant population in Bahrain. This initiative was part of Smile of Bahrain's Kids are Gold Campaign.



CONTD ON PG04

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON...

I am delighted at the wonderful news of August - Bahrain government has announced that, starting from 2025, the summer midday work ban will be extended to three months. This significant decision follows the #ExtendTheShade campaign initiated by MWPS in August, and it marks a tremendous victory for the welfare of migrant workers in our country.

This extension is a testament to the power of collective advocacy and the government's commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of all workers. By extending the midday work ban, Bahrain is taking a crucial step towards ensuring safer working conditions during the hottest months of the year.

We are deeply grateful to the Bahrain government for their responsiveness and dedication to this cause. This decision will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the lives of countless workers, providing them with much-needed relief from the extreme summer heat.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our members, supporters, and partners who have tirelessly advocated for this change. Your voices have been heard, and together, we have made a difference.

Let us continue to work together to promote the rights and welfare of migrant workers in Bahrain.

With warm regards,

MONA ALMOAYYED

CHAIRPERSON, MIGRANT WORKERS PROTECTION SOCIETY



People on the move have immense power to transform communities, societies, and countries. Together, we must harness the power of migration.

America Ferrera, IOM Global Goodwill Ambassador

SPOTLIGHT

EDITORIAL

MEET THE TEAM

Get to know the exceptional individuals behind the MWPS scenes in this segment.



#teammwps

EMPOWERING
ADVOCACY

KUDARI BEULAH TIMOTHY

A dedicated wife and mother of two, Beulah lives with her husband Sreenivasulu, in Bahrain. Her daughter is Mary, and son Daniel. Having lived in India, Kuwait, and Bahrain, Beulah considers Bahrain her home, where her family has resided for over a decade. She has witnessed her children grow, study, and work in this vibrant community.

Professionally, Beulah has served as a Women and Child Development Officer and a Mathematics teacher in schools. These roles have instilled in her a deep commitment to advocating for the helpless and being their voice. Additionally, she is a Master Facilitator in trauma healing, helping individuals recover from emotional wounds.

Beulah's journey with MWPS began in 2019, providing her with numerous opportunities to assist others and grow personally. She is passionate about working with a dedicated team that shares her commitment to making a positive impact on the community.

As September ushered in cooler breezes, we welcomed a much-needed respite from the intense summer heat. This change in weather is a significant relief, especially for our migrant workers who labour outdoors. The transition from hot and sweaty days to more comfortable conditions is a reminder of the cyclical nature of seasons and the hope they bring.

In line with this seasonal change, we are heartened by the Bahrain government's recent decision to extend the summer midday work ban to three months, starting from 2025. This progressive move reflects a deep commitment to the health and safety of all workers, particularly those exposed to extreme heat.

The extension of the midday work ban is a testament to the power of advocacy and the government's dedication to improving labour conditions. It is a significant step towards ensuring a better quality of life for the migrant population in Bahrain. As we embrace these positive changes, let us continue to work together for the well-being of all, knowing that each season brings new opportunities for growth and improvement.

May these changes herald a brighter, safer future for everyone, especially our hardworking migrant community.

Happy reading!

RAJI UNNIKRISHNAN

EDITOR - MIGRANT VOICE

BULLETIN RAISING AWARENESS

As part of the 'Working Together' initiative, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted an awareness session titled 'Awareness Session on Trafficking in Persons and Support Services' for Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) employees. The session aimed to educate employees on combating trafficking in persons and provided information on Bahrain's measures and support services to protect workers' rights and ensure a safe work environment.





OUTREACH

September, the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) actively addressed several critical cases, providing much-needed support and intervention for the migrant community in Bahrain.

Case 01

An Indian family in Bahrain faced urgent financial distress following the deportation of the husband, who was the primary breadwinner. Struggling to cover immigration fines totalling BD375 and three months' overdue rent of BD260, the family sought assistance. The Indian Embassy considered covering their flight costs back to India, while efforts were made to secure Emergency Certificates and pay school fees for the children. MWPS intervened to cover the immigration fines. Additionally, through the support of a social worker, the overdue rent, school fees, and air tickets were arranged. With this assistance, the family was able to travel back to their home country, alleviating their immediate distress.

Case 02

An Indian national was admitted to Salmaniya Medical Complex on August 16, 2024, due to complications from Type 2 diabetes, requiring urgent surgery. However, she was afraid and refused the procedure in Bahrain. Additionally, she did not possess her passport, as it was reportedly taken by her agent upon arrival in Bahrain, and she could not provide contact details for this agent. MWPS intervened, taking her to the police station after her discharge. Despite being detained due to a case against her, MWPS approached the Embassy, which conducted verification and issued an Emergency Certificate. She was able to leave Bahrain on September 2.

Case 03

A Sri Lankan national and former sales supervisor faced a series of unfortunate events related to a financial dispute with

his ex-employer. Despite a promised raise, the company deducted 50pc of his salary during his employment. He also endured personal hardships, including his wife's pregnancy and his subsequent detainment due to a criminal case initiated by his boss. To secure his release, his family and friends paid approximately BD3,500 to settle debts. However, his boss demanded further payments and filed a civil case against him, resulting in a travel ban. Seeking assistance to resolve the dispute, he reached out for intervention. MWPS stepped in and provided legal assistance, leading to the removal of his travel ban.

Case 04

A desperate Sri Lankan housemaid, approached MWPS for help regarding her 20-year-old daughter stranded in the Maldives with overstayed fines. Despite seeking assistance through official channels, no solution was found. MWPS intervened, and with the mother's efforts, the fines and flight ticket were covered. Her daughter has now safely returned home.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF #EXTENDTHESHAD E CAMPAIGN



Campaign to extend the summer work ban in Bahrain

Team MWPS is proud and thankful to announce the success of our #ExtendTheShade campaign! We are delighted to share that the government has acknowledged our efforts and goodwill by extending the midday work ban during the summer to three months starting next year.

This significant decision will provide better protection for workers from the extreme heat, ensuring their health and safety during the hottest months. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the government for their support and commitment to this crucial cause.

Together, we have made a positive impact on the lives of many, and we look forward to continuing our efforts to advocate for the well-being of our community.

Good Job!



IN FOCUS

MISSION GOLDEN RIBBON

CONTD FROM PG01

SMILE FOR BAHRAIN EXTENDS SUPPORT TO EXPAT FAMILIES

Recognising the unique challenges faced by expat families, Smile for Bahrain has opened its doors to offer comprehensive assistance, including financial aid, psychological support, and other essential services. Expat families can now seek support from Smile for Bahrain, ensuring they receive the necessary resources and care during their difficult journey. Additionally, the campaign encourages community involvement, inviting individuals to contribute through financial donations, volunteering, or other forms of support. The primary goal of the **Special September** campaign by the 973Lounge is to reach out to the community, raising awareness about the available support and fostering a spirit of solidarity. By bridging the gap and providing much-needed assistance, Smile for Bahrain hopes to make a significant difference in the lives of expat families fighting childhood cancer.

Diplomatic Dialogues: The 973Lounge and Smile teams reached out to various embassies in Bahrain to spread awareness about childhood cancer and the support available for migrant families, as well as discussed on possible collaborations including volunteering, skill building and more.



Mission Golden Ribbon: A significant event at the King Hamad American Mission Hospital saw close to 150 women taking the MISSION GOLDEN RIBBON pledge to advance the cause of childhood cancer awareness.



Healing Brushes: An art workshop was held to provide a therapeutic outlet for 30 participants, from across the country, emphasizing the importance of mental health and healing through creativity.



Community Outreach Event: A special event was organized at the Indian Embassy to engage the Indian community on the same cause, highlighting the available support for the affected families as well as opening doors for volunteers.



WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Check out our website for the link to our membership form.
Tel & WhatsApp: 00973 17827895 Email: mwpsbah2@gmail.com



www.mwpsbahrain.com